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31. A method of improving bioavailability of ergot derivatives administered using sustained-release delivery systems comprising combining an ergot derivative or mixture thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrophilic swelling agent or mixture thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system;

said ergot derivative is selected from the group consisting of α-dihydroergocryptine and bromocriptine.

32. A sustained-release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

an ergot derivative or mixture thereof;

a pharmaceutically acceptable swelling agent or mixture thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients;

said composition having a bioavailability at least equal to the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system, and wherein said ergot derivative is selected from the group consisting of α-dihydroergocryptine and bromocriptine.

33. The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the bioavailability is at least 25% higher than the bioavailability of the ergot derivative or mixture thereof administered using a conventional drug delivery system.

34. The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the ergot derivative is α-dihydroergocryptine.

35. The composition according to Claim 32, wherein the hydrophilic swelling agent is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyvinyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene glycols and poloxamers and mixtures thereof.